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The club is not a snake club, for only about two out of its twenty Active Members are deeply interested in herpetology.

Among the most useful of the California snakes is the Pacific Bull Snake (or Gopher Snake), *Pituophis catenifer*, which is common on the Pacific Coast. Its food consists chiefly of rodent pests, such as gophers, mice, ground-squirrels and small rabbits. Although he prefers these animals for food, the Pacific Bull Snake has a rather accommodating appetite, which must under the force of necessity adapt itself to circumstances and include in his ophiological menu, birds, an occasional rat, bats, and sometimes a lizard or two. Sometimes an egg (or several) is commandeered, but I have never known of a Pacific Bull Snake's having eaten any egg as large as a chicken's.

One sixty-four inch Pacific Bull Snake that was brought to me was handled too much. A slight touch of *mal de mer* resulted in his vomiting four full-grown gophers, none of which was more than slightly digested. On another occasion more than a dozen mice had the misfortune to run foul of a mouse trap I had set for living mice. These same mice had the additional misfortune all to find their way into the stomach of a good-sized hungry Pacific Bull Snake.

Taking it all in all, the good done by the Pacific Bull Snake has already earned him the protection of many ranchers and far outweighs any harmful depredations his lack of discretion may at times mislead him to make.

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## NOTES ON THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS FROM CAPE ANN, MASSACHUSETTS.

Dr. A. G. Ruthven in his monograph on the Garter Snakes, plots out some curves of scale variation in the genus and suggests the desirability of securing data on the scale formulae of specimens from other

sections of the country. Accordingly having had the opportunity this summer of getting the specimens to make some measurements from the neighborhood of Rockport and Gloucester, Mass., I present the results here:

SEX, LENGTH	LABIALS		OCULARS		SCALE ROWS			VEN- TRALS	SUB- CAUDALS
	Upper	Lower	Pre.	Post.	Ant.	Med.	Post.		
5 1. Fem. 24 in.	8-8	8-10	1	3	19	19	(?)	150	66
2. Fem. 13 1/2 "	7-7	10-11	2-1	3	19	19	17	142	63 8 undivided
3. Fem. 24 "	7-8	9-9	1	3	19	19	17	148	60
4. Fem. 26 "	8-9	9-9	1	4	19	19	17	145	60
5. Male 23 "	7-7	9-9	1	3	19	19	17	151	75
6. Fem. 13 "	7-7	9-10	1	3	19	18	17	144	60
7. (?) 20 "	7-7	10-9	1	3	19	19	17	149	Tail partly lost 1 undivided
8. (?) 25 "	8-7	10-9	1	3	20	19	17	147	67
9. Male 21 "	7-7	9-10	1	3	19	19	17	141	74
10. Male 8 "	7-7	9-9	1	3	19	19	17	139	75
11. Male 18 1/2 "	7-7	10-10	1	3	18	18	17	148	74

5 Aug. 6 bore 19 young.

The Garter Snakes of this region show somewhat more uniformity in coloring than those of the Middle Atlantic States. I have found that most of the adults are a very dark brown or black in the ground color, the stripe being fairly clear and well defined. As a rule, too, the spots are not as prominent as in specimens that come from the region to the south.

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